

Whereas, it is with tremendous admiration that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to acknowledge recent notable contributions of Battlefield Fire Protection District personnel to the city of Battlefield, Missouri; and

Whereas, on May 4, 2003, after severe weather struck the southwestern portion of the Show-Me State, Matt Hite helped to lead his hometown in the fastest tornado cleanup in the state by involving himself in the extrication of five trucks that were in demolished Fire Station #1 and with the area-wide clearing of debris which followed; and

Whereas, in addition to destroying forty-six homes and damaging another one hundred twenty-five, Sunday's tornado wrecked Battlefield's fire and police stations, necessitating the use of First Baptist Church facilities as a command post for the Greene County Sheriff's Department; and

Whereas, Battlefield's brush with severe weather also took its toll in human life when one nearby resident was killed by a falling tree while she made her way to a storm cellar outside of her home along Greene County 115; and

Whereas, because of the storm's widespread destruction, the American Red Cross found its relief resources to be stretched quite thin and had to delay the normal distribution of food, clothing, and vouchers for such necessities as shelter; and

Whereas, Matt Hite was involved in difficult work which he accomplished with considerable skill, wholehearted enthusiasm, and exceptional empathy for all of those affected by the tornado; and

Whereas, the city of Battlefield is named after an important Civil War site now known as Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park and is home to more than 1,500 residents:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the stellar services and community-minded endeavors engaged in by Matt Hite down through the years and to convey to him this legislative body's most heartfelt appreciation of his work during and after the May 4, 2003, severe weather which brought considerable devastation to the city of Battlefield in southwest Missouri; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Matt Hite of the Battlefield Fire Protection District of Battlefield, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative James Viebrock
District No. 134

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4122, adopted September 18, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker